

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A clear, water-soluble copolymer of

a) a monoethylenically unsaturated, acid-group-containing monomer and

b) at least one of the following copolymerizable hydrophobic components that contains an unsaturated double bond

b1) an acyclic, monocyclic and/or bicyclic terpene,

b2) an unsaturated, open-chain or cyclic, normal or isomeric hydrocarbon with 8 to 30 carbon atoms, and

b3) an unsaturated fatty alcohol with respectively 8 to 30 carbon atoms and its esters or amides with saturated aliphatic alcohols, amines and acids, wherein the copolymer is formed by radical copolymerization of components a) and b) in an aqueous phase.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the monoethylenically unsaturated, acid-group-containing monomer comprises a monoethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acid.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~copolymer~~ copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the acid-group-containing monomer is a member selected from the group comprising acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and vinylacetic acid.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the monoethylenically unsaturated, acid-group-containing monomer comprises a

monoethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic, a monoethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acid or both.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the acid groups in the monomer are neutralized in a proportion of 1 to 75%.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the acid groups in the monomer are neutralized in a proportion of 5 to 30%.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the copolymerizable component is an acyclic terpene and/or a monocyclic and/or bicyclic terpene hydrocarbon.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of component b) ranges from 0.001 to 50 wt%.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 8, wherein the proportion of component b) ranges from 0.01 to 30 wt%.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, further comprising up to 40 wt% of an acid-group-free, water-soluble monomer.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 1, having a weight-average molecular weight of smaller than or equal to 500,000 g/mol.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The copolymer according to claim 11, having a weight-average molecular weight of between 1,000 and 10,000 g/mol.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method for synthesis of a water-soluble copolymer according to claim 1, comprising forming the copolymer by radical polymerization of the monomer components in the aqueous phase.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein the concentration of the copolymerizable constituents in the aqueous polymerization mixture is 10 to 70 wt%.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein component b) is used in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion that is formed from a hydrophobic phase (oil phase), at least one emulsifier and water.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein the radical polymerization is carried out in the presence of molecular-weight regulators.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method for preventing organic, inorganic and mixed organic/inorganic deposits in a water-conveying system comprising applying to the system an effective amount of the copolymer of claim 1.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 applied in service water or wastewater systems, in cooling loops, in seawater desalination plants, in reverse osmosis systems, and for conditioning of brackish water and in the recovery of sugar

from sugar beet, especially for treatment of aqueous suspensions containing chopped sugar beet.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 18 applied in the recovery of sugar from sugar beet for treatment of aqueous suspensions containing chopped sugar beet.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the copolymer is added to the water-conveying system in a proportion of 0.1 to 5000 ppm.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein the copolymer is added to the water-conveying system in a proportion of 1 to 100 ppm.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A method for grinding and dispersing of pigments comprising grinding and dispersing pigments in the presence of an auxiliary agent comprising the copolymer of claim 1.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A textile-treatment and leather-treatment process comprising treating a textile or leather with the copolymer of claim 1.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A cleaning-agent or washing-agent formulation comprising as an auxiliary agent the copolymer of claim 1.